

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for monitoring a control system ~~comprising~~ having a plurality of control units suitable for controlling an optical measurement device or observation device, wherein a control station communicates with the control units for purposes of detecting status data and the control station generates pictures of total statuses of the control system based on this status data, said method comprising the steps of:

incorporating at least one microprocessor unit with master capability to communicate between the control station and the control units; and

detecting the status data of at least one of the control units using said at least one microprocessor unit with master capability ~~to communicate with at least one of the control units for purposes of~~ so as to offload the work of detecting the status data of the at least one control unit from the control station; and

communicating with the control station by said at least one microprocessor unit with the master capability for purposes of conveying the detected status data ~~to the control unit.~~

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the incorporation is carried out within time limits.

3. (Currently Amended) The method for monitoring a control system as set forth in claim 1,

wherein detecting the status data is accomplished by transferring a master capability partially and/or within time limits from the control station to at least one of the plurality of control units to create a control unit with master capability,

wherein the control unit with master capability communicates with at least one of the other control units of the plurality of control units to detect status data of at least one of the other control units; and

communicates with the control station for purposes of conveying detected status data to the control station.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein

at least one control ~~units~~ unit with master capability and ~~the plurality of control~~
units without master capability are interconnected via a bus,

and the control station communicates with the rest of the control units via a two-path connection to one of the at least one control ~~units~~ unit with master capability, wherein a capability of detecting status data is assigned to the at least one control ~~units~~ unit with master capability.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein the transferring a master capability for detecting status data of at least one of the other control units is carried out using existing communications paths by downloading corresponding executable programs from the control station to the at least one of the plurality of control units to create a control unit with master capability.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein a step of assigning and/or taking away a capability of detecting the status data using existing communications paths is carried out by activating or deactivating executable programs which are stored in the control unit or which are transmitted by downloading.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the detection of status data by the microprocessor unit with master capability or by the control unit is brought about when changes in status occur in the at least one of the plurality of control units.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the status data detected by the microprocessor unit with master capability ~~or by the enabled control unit~~ are transmitted to the control station when called up.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein the status data detected by the microprocessor unit with master capability ~~or by the enabled control unit~~ are transmitted to the control station at predetermined time intervals.

10. (Currently Amended) A control system suitable for controlling an optical measurement device or observation device with parts to be controlled comprising:

a plurality of control units for controlling the parts;

a control station which, when required, generates a map of the overall status of the control system based on status data of the plurality of control units, the control station being capable of assessing status data of the plurality of control units; and

at least one of the plurality of control units having a master capability of detecting and/or automatically assessing status data of other control units of the plurality of control units so as to offload the work of assessing status data of the other control units from the control station and transmitting the detected status data and a determined assessment to the control station.

11. (New) A control system suitable for controlling an optical measurement or observation device having a plurality of adjustable elements, the control system comprising:

a plurality of control units with each controlling an associated adjustable element;

a central control station having a master capability to control the adjustable elements through the control units by issuing adjustment commands to and assessing status data from the plurality of control units; and

at least one of the plurality of control units having a processor with a master capability of:

assessing status data of other control units so as to offload the work of assessing status data from the central control station; and

transmitting the assessed status data to the central control station.

12. (New) The control system according to claim 11, wherein an executable program that assesses the status data of the control units is downloaded from the central control station and stored in the at least one control unit with the master capability to offload the work of assessing the status data.

13. (New) The control system according to claim 11, wherein the work of assessing status data that has been offloaded from the central control station includes repeatedly polling the control unit and receiving an indication from the control unit that the adjustment command has been completed.